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2 Chairman Phil Mendelson



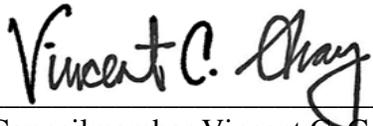
Councilmember Charles Allen

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6 Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

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10 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray



Councilmember Christina Henderson

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14 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George



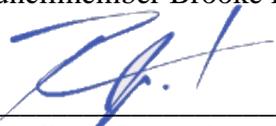
Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

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18 Councilmember Brooke Pinto



Councilmember Elissa Silverman

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22 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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26 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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31 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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36 To declare the sense of the Council that, in order to meaningfully reduce gun violence, the District
37 government must fully adopt and implement the evidence-based Gun Violence Reduction
38 Strategic Plan created in partnership between the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
39 and the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform without further delay.

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41 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
42 resolution may be cited as the "Sense of the Council on the Adoption and Implementation of the
43 Gun Violence Reduction Strategic Plan Resolution of 2022".

44 Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

45 (1) From 2002 to 2021, the District experienced, on average, 164 homicides. In 2012, the
46 District experienced 88 homicides – the fewest in 49 years. However, between 2017 and 2021, the
47 number of homicides in the District nearly doubled. There were 116 homicides in 2017, 160 in
48 2018, 166 in 2019, 198 in 2020, 226 in 2021, and 185 in 2022, to date. 2021 was also the first time
49 in 17 years that the number of homicides in the District surpassed 200.

50 (2) The number of guns recovered in the District has also steadily climbed since 2015. The
51 Metropolitan Police Department recovered 1,706 firearms in 2015, 1,870 firearms in 2016, 2,191
52 firearms in 2017, 1,928 firearms in 2018, 2,299 firearms in 2019, 2,371 in 2020, and 2,410 in 2021.

53 (3) The proliferation of firearms is fueling violence, and these statistics reflect nothing
54 short of a public health crisis. An overwhelming majority of homicides in the District are
55 committed through the use of a firearm. Of the 1,343 homicides committed over an 8-year period
56 from November 8, 2014 through November 8, 2022, 1,076 – or 80% – involved a firearm.
57 Moreover, the use of firearms in across all violent crimes has almost doubled in a little over 10
58 years, from just 28% in 2011 to 58% in 2022.

59 (4) The Council has created and funded a proliferation of programs and investments
60 designed to combat rising levels of violence in the District. For example, drawing on the success
61 of Richmond, California’s Office of Neighborhood Safety, the Council in 2016 established an
62 Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (“ONSE”) to identify, recruit, and engage
63 individuals determined to be at high risk of participating in, or being a victim of, violent crime.
64 ONSE’s Violence Intervention Initiative also attempts to interrupt cycles of violence stemming
65 from neighborhood or crew conflicts by negotiating ceasefires, conducting mediations, and hosting
66 conflict intervention sessions. In the summer of 2018, the Office of the Attorney General (“OAG”)

67 launched a similar violence interruption program called Cure the Streets. Both ONSE and OAG's
68 violence intervention programs have expanded dramatically since their inception through Council
69 investments. And while these programs have had successes, violent crime remains frustratingly
70 persistent.

71 (5) The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council ("CJCC") is an independent District agency
72 that serves as a forum for identifying challenges to, and generating solutions for, improving public
73 safety in the District. The CJCC's membership includes District and federal criminal justice
74 agencies, including the Chief of Police for the Metropolitan Police Department, the Attorney
75 General for the District of Columbia, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, the
76 Chief Judge of D.C. Superior Court, the executive directors of the Department of Corrections, the
77 Federal Bureau of Prisons, the Pretrial Services Agency, and the Court Services and Offender
78 Supervision Agency, as well as the Mayor, the Chairman of the Council, and the Chairperson of
79 the Council's Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety.

80 (6) For several years, the CJCC has devoted significant time to discussing comprehensive
81 strategies for reducing gun violence. Throughout those discussions, various models of "focused
82 deterrence" have emerged as promising strategies around which to coordinate the District's public
83 safety and criminal justice agencies. A number of models for focused deterrence exist, but most
84 start with a basic, verifiable premise: that an overwhelming majority of violent crime is committed
85 by a small, identifiable number of individuals who operate in a limited number of places. By
86 focusing on these "hot people" and "hot places," cities can dramatically reduce gun violence.
87 Focused deterrence still relies on traditional law enforcement tools – arrests and prosecutions –
88 when individuals commit violent crimes. But the strategy also relies on support-based initiatives
89 within the criminal justice system – such as the service referrals and case management offered by

90 violence interruption programs – and resources like housing, education, and employment
91 assistance provided by core services agencies.

92 (7) Unfortunately, the District, through CJCC or otherwise, has never committed itself to
93 following any iteration of focused deterrence. Instead, implementation of the strategy’s
94 components has been piecemeal and incoherent. In its budget for Fiscal Year 2021, for example,
95 the Council approved funding to create a new position of a Gun Violence Prevention Director
96 within the Office of the City Administrator with the goal that the position could marshal the whole-
97 of-government approach that focused deterrence demands. And in 2021, the Executive launched
98 the Building Blocks DC program, which stated that its focus would be on the 151 city blocks on
99 which 41% of all firearms-related crimes occur. Building Blocks DC was, ostensibly, an attempt
100 to address the “hot places” as suggested by focused deterrence. But again, these initiatives have
101 not yet led to meaningful reductions in violent crime due to a lack of support for them,
102 collaboration and coordination across government and community, readily identifiable leadership
103 within the Executive on these efforts, and adherence to the evidence-based fundamental principles
104 required to drive down crime among those most likely to commit it, although there have been
105 promising developments on some of these fronts.

106 (8) Beginning in fall 2019, the CJCC began taking initial steps to formulate a
107 comprehensive gun violence reduction strategy informed by discussions on adopting a focused
108 deterrence model. The initial component of this project was to conduct a “problem analysis,”
109 which identifies the networks and individuals within a community which are at greatest risk of
110 violence to help tailor interventions. The CJCC contracted with the National Institute for Criminal
111 Justice Reform (“NICJR”) to conduct the problem analysis, which was completed in February
112 2022.

113 (9) Following the completion of the problem analysis, the CJCC and NICJR next developed
114 a comprehensive gun violence reduction strategy. In developing the plan, the NICJR researched
115 national best practices, conducted interviews with key District agencies and community members,
116 and hosted community events at which residents could provide input and feedback.

117 (10) In April 2022, NICJR published its Gun Violence Reduction Strategic Plan (“Plan”).
118 NICJR found that the District is “is one of the few cities in the country that has the needed talent,
119 ability, and resources to drastically reduce gun violence in the city” and yet, paradoxically, is
120 “lacking the political commitment, coordination, and a coherent strategy to reduce gun violence.”

121 (11) The Plan consists of three main components. The first component, Violence
122 Prevention, focuses on the “elimination or reduction of the underlying causes and risk factors that
123 lead to violence” in the first place. The second component, Violence Intervention, is “designed to
124 prevent the reoccurrence of violence or intervene and prevent the imminent act of violence.” And
125 the final component, Community Transformation, “refers to the elimination of factors that give
126 rise to violence in a neighborhood, like poverty, blight, low performing schools, disinvestment,
127 and chronic unemployment.”

128 (12) The Plan would leverage a whole-of-government approach to combat violent crime in
129 the District, and synthesizes many of the programs already on the ground with the law enforcement
130 tools already available. It is an ambitious, yet actionable, evidence-based strategy for reducing gun
131 violence, and must be fully adopted without delay.

132 Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that, in order to meaningfully reduce gun violence, the
133 District government must fully adopt and implement the evidence-based Gun Violence Reduction
134 Strategic Plan created in partnership between the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the
135 National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform without further delay.

136 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
137 the District of Columbia Register.